

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Date: 17 May 1983

TO: Mr. Casey

FROM:

STAT

13 JUN 1983

SUBJECT: Call from Ambassador Helms

REMARKS:

Amb. Helms called to suggest that you read article in NEW YORK TIMES today on page A-18, "Opponents of MX Hope to Bar Funds." He particularly wanted to draw your attention to last paragraph--"...at the news conference, Senator Gary Hart brought two former Directors of Central Intelligence who argued against deployment of the MX, William Colby and Stansfield Turner."

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## OPPONENTS OF MX HOPE TO BAR FUNDS

Nationwide Campaign Begun  
to Persuade Congress Not  
to Finance New Missile

By STEVEN V. ROBERTS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 16 — Opponents of the MX missile said today that they were starting a nationwide lobbying and letter-writing campaign to try to block Congressional financing for the new weapon.

The drive was organized by Senator Gary Hart of Colorado, a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, who said at a news conference that the MX was a "threat to national security" and should be stopped.

"The MX represents a substantial escalation of the arms race," he asserted. "If we want to curtail that escalation, we have to draw the line."

Last week, two Congressional committees approved a resolution that would release \$625 million for development of the missile that the lawmakers had frozen last year. The resolution still must clear both houses by the end of the month, and Senator Hart argued today that approval of the missile was "not a foregone conclusion" and that "it can still be stopped."

### Trend Favors Missile

However, foes of the MX acknowledge that the political trend now seems to be in favor of the missile. One of the main reasons for the changed mood on Capitol Hill has been an intense White House campaign designed to convince wavering lawmakers that President Reagan is serious about arms control and will use the MX as leverage in talks with the Soviet Union.

"I still don't like the missile," said Representative Dan Glickman, a Kansas Democrat and one of 12 lawmakers who received letters from Mr. Reagan last week in which he stressed his commitment to arms reduction. "But it looks to me, for the first time," he continued, "that we might be able to achieve a consensus on arms control, and if the MX gets us there, it's worth the risk."

Critics of the missile retorted today that the President's letters were merely "vague promises" that did not significantly advance the cause of arms control. Representative Edward J. Markey, Democrat of Massachusetts, compared Mr. Reagan's request for money to build the MX to a drunk "who promises to go to Alcoholics Anonymous if the bartender will sell him one more bottle of whiskey."

Asked for details about his "national mobilization," Senator Hart said Congressional opponents of the missile would talk to their colleagues, while outside groups would urge their members to apply pressure on lawmakers.

### Common Cause Joins Drive

For instance, Common Cause, the public affairs lobby, has already sent letters to several hundred thousand households, attempting to stir up active opposition to the MX.

In his bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination, Senator Hart is clearly appealing to those in his party who are against nuclear weapons. Political analysts say such a segment could be an important ally in the early primaries.

Like other moderates on Capitol Hill, Mr. Glickman says that if Democrats support Mr. Reagan on the MX, they can deflect a potential issue in next year's election.

"It's not to our advantage," the Kansas explained, "to let him point fingers and say we killed his major weapons system."

At the news conference, Senator Hart presented two former Directors of Central Intelligence who argued against deployment of the MX, William Colby and Stansfield Turner.